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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,093	12/28/2001	Royce D. Jordan JR.	010569	2219

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WITHERS & KEYS FOR BELL SOUTH
P. O. BOX 71355
MARIETTA, GA 30007-1355

EXAMINER

TRAN, AMY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/034,093

Applicant(s)

JORDAN, ROYCE D.

Examiner

Amy Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on December 28 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/19/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on December 28, 2001. Claims 1-21 are pending examination. Claim 1-21 represent systems and methods to selectively control forwarding of electronic mail.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ralston et al. (hereinafter Ralston) US Patent 6,842,773.

As to claim 1, Ralston teaches a system for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message, wherein the message is sent by a sender to a recipient, and wherein the message has a message body and a message header, the system comprising:

a wireless gateway in communication with an electronic mail client (fig 1, column 3 lines 13-21, "wireless gateway" is inherent as "wireless networks");

a message database in communication with the gateway for storing a first message identifier associated with the electronic message (i.e. key word database 230 stores unique identifier of an email message, column 5 lines 35-43); and

a search module in communication with the message database for determining whether a second message identifier associated with a forwarded electronic message is contained in the message database and, if the message database contains the second message identifier, preventing forwarding of the forwarded message (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 screens for email message identifier, if the email message identifier is found, the email message is discarded without further processing, column 5 lines 35-43).

As to claim 2, Ralston teaches the system of claim 1; Ralston further teaches a message selection module for selecting on a per-message basis whether to prevent forwarding of the electronic message (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 screens for message identifier to determine whether to prevent forwarding the electronic message).

As to claim 3, Ralston teaches the system of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein the message selection module identifies selected messages by including commands in the message body (i.e. identifying a message by screening the message's body, column 5 line 66 – column 10 line 10).

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As to claim 4, Ralston teaches the system of claim 1, claim 2 and claim 3, wherein the message selection module identifies selected messages by including commands in the message header (i.e. identifying a message by inspection of the message's header, column 4 lines 8-14).

As to claim 5, Ralston teaches the system of claim 1, claim 2, claim 3, and claim 4, wherein the gateway applies a set of default policies to the electronic message (i.e. multiple algorithm which are default policies are used to applied to the electronic message, column 4 line 66 – column 8 line 6, column 21 lines 15-20).

As to claim 6, Ralston teaches a method for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message, wherein the electronic message has a unique message identifier, the method comprising:

scanning the electronic message for a request to prevent forwarding (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 scans the electronic message for the electronic message identifier, column 5 lines 35-43);

storing the message identifier in a blacklist database whenever the request is found and blocking forwarding of the electronic message when the message identifier matches an entry in the blacklist database (i.e. block list database 244, key word database 230, message database 206 store unique identifier's information of an email message which is the subject to blocking forwarding, column 5 lines 13-65, fig 2).

As to claim 7, Ralston teaches the system of claim 6, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding (i.e. message's body is scanned to determine whether the message is the subject to preventing forwarding, column 9 line 55 – column 10 line 65).

As to claim 8, Ralston teaches the system of claim 6 and 7, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding (i.e. identifying an electronic message by inspection of the message's header, column 4 lines 8-14).

As to claim 9, Ralston teaches the system of claim 6, claim 7, claim 8 and claim 9, Ralston further teaches selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 screens for email message identifier, if the email message identifier is found, the email message is not forwarded, column 5 lines 35-43).

As to claim 10, Ralston teaches a system for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message, wherein the electronic message has a unique message identifier, the method comprising:

means for scanning the electronic message for a request to prevent forwarding (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 scans the electronic message for the electronic message identifier, column 5 lines 35-43);

means for storing the message identifier in a blacklist database whenever the request is found (i.e. block list database 244, key word database 230, message database 206 store unique identifier's information of an email message which is the subject to blocking forwarding, column 5 lines 13-65, fig 2); and

means for blocking forwarding of the electronic message whenever the message identifier matches an entry in the blacklist database (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 screens for email message identifier, if the email message identifier is found, the email message is discarded without further processing, column 5 lines 35-43).

As to claim 11, Ralston teaches the system of claim 10, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein the means for scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding (i.e. message body is scanned to determine whether the message is the subject to preventing forwarding, column 9 line 55 – column 10 line 65).

As to claim 12, Ralston teaches the system of claim 10 and claim 11, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein the means for scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding (i.e.

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identifying an electronic message by inspection of the message's header, column 4 lines 8-14).

As to claim 13, Ralston teaches the system of claim 10, claim 11 and claim 12, Ralston further teaches means for selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 screens for email message identifier, if the email message identifier is found, the email message is not forwarded, column 5 lines 35-43).

As to claim 14, Ralston teaches a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

scanning an electronic message for a request to prevent forwarding (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 scans the electronic message for the electronic message identifier, column 5 lines 35-43);

storing a message identifier in a blacklist database whenever the request is found (i.e. block list database 244, key word database 230, message database 206 store unique identifier's information of an email message which is the subject to blocking forwarding, column 5 lines 13-65, fig 2); and

blocking forwarding of the electronic message whenever the message identifier matches an entry in the blacklist database (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 screens for

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email message identifier, if the email message identifier is found, the email message is discarded without further processing, column 5 lines 35-43).

As to claim 15, Ralston teaches the medium of claim 14, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding (i.e. message body is scanned to determine whether the message is the subject to preventing forwarding, column 9 line 55 – column 10 line 65).

As to claim 16, Ralston teaches the medium of claim 14 and claim 15, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding (i.e. identifying an electronic message by inspection of the message's header, column 4 lines 8-14).

As to claim 17, Ralston teaches the medium of claim 14, claim 15 and claim 16, Ralston further teaches selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding (i.e. the mail transfer agent 204 screens for email message identifier, if the email message identifier is found, the email message is not forwarded, column 5 lines 35-43).

As to claim 18, Ralston teaches a computer readable medium containing instructions that when executed by a computer perform the act of:

receiving user input for preventing forwarding of one or more electronic mail messages ; and upon a subsequent attempt to forward one of the one or more electronic mail messages, referencing the user input and preventing forwarding (i.e. screening for email message identifier, if the email message identifier is found, the email message is prevented from forwarding, column 3 lines 13-58, column 5 lines 35-43).

As to claim 19, Ralston teaches the computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein receiving user input comprises receiving user input included in the header of an electronic mail message being created at a client computer where the user input from the header is referenced upon an attempt to forward the electronic mail message (i.e. identifying a message by inspection of the message's header, column 4 lines 8-14).

As to claim 21, Ralston teaches the computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein receiving user input to prevent forwarding comprises configuring a gateway of a network that the one or more electronic mail messages pass through to prevent forwarding of the one or more electronic mail messages (column 3 lines 13-58, "wireless gateway" is inherent as "wireless networks", mail system 112 receives, filter and sorts e-mails).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ralston US Patent 6,842,773 in view of Leonard et al (hereinafter Leonard) US Patent 6,721,784.

As to claim 20, Ralston teaches the computer readable medium of claim 18, which prevents forwarding of an electronic mail message; Ralston fails to teach "an option for a user to select within a graphical user interface". However, Leonard teaches system and method for enabling a sender of an electronic mail message to selectively control forwarding of the message. Leonard does teach message creation screen, which includes a button that provides options for users to select to prevent forwarding electronic mail messages (fig 5, column 19 lines 25-28).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ralston by including option for preventing forwarding of an electronic mail message at the email message creation screen as Leonard's teaching. One would do so because it provides users an option to control confidentiality of electronic mail communication over networks.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4243. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

at
2/28/05


SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER